

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

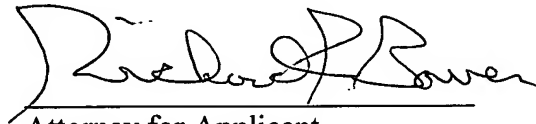
Claims 1-46 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 24 being independent.

Claims 1 and 3-46 stand rejected under 35 USC § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-44 of U.S. Patent No. 6,635,613, for the reasons discussed on pages two and three of the Office Action. Also, Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons discussed on page three of the Office Action. Without conceding the propriety of any rejection, the claims have been amended for clarity with respect to each other, and not in response to any statutory requirement. The claims are believed to be patentably distinct from those of the '613 Patent. In any event, a Terminal Disclaimer has been submitted with respect to the '613 Patent.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
525 West Monroe Street
Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061